

The City Council Regular Session meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., by Mayor Stu Ferguson with Councilors Miller, Houck, and Nesbitt present along with City Manager Coleman, City Clerk Davidson, Public Works Director Bradford, WSC Liaison Cruz, and the press. Councilor Harriman and City Attorney Landwehr were not in attendance. A Council quorum was present.

Consideration of Minutes:**Regular Session Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2011.**

Councilor Nesbitt moved and Councilor Houck seconded the motion to approve the Regular Session Meeting minutes of March 8, 2011.

Roll call vote, yes: Ferguson, Houck, Nesbitt. Motion carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

Roll call vote, abstain: Miller. He was not in attendance at the meeting.

Pre-Scheduled Citizens: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:**Letter of Support for Partner's 8th Street School Project.**

Councilor Houck moved and Councilor Nesbitt seconded the motion to approve the Letter of Support for the Partner's 8th Street School Project and for all of Council to sign the letter.

Roll call vote, yes: Ferguson, Houck, Nesbitt, Miller. Motion carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

Travel Reimbursement Policy. City Manager Coleman informed Council that because of recent discussions, Staff reviewed the Travel Reimbursement Policy. The annual mileage assessment for meals is set by the Boulder/Denver/Greely CIP and the mileage is based on the IRS reimbursement figure. The differential rate for personal vehicle use versus use of a City vehicle has been removed. If a personal vehicle is used then the reimbursement will be at the IRS mileage rate. Councilor Miller stated that he is the one who brought the issue up. He feels it is not fair for an elected official or an employee to not be fully reimbursed if they drive their own vehicle. He also suggested taking out the words "Senior, ARRP" from section III. b. Council consensus was to remove the words.

Councilor Nesbitt moved and Councilor Miller seconded the motion to approve the Travel Reimbursement Policy as amended.

Roll call vote, yes: Houck, Nesbitt, Miller, Ferguson. Motion carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

Ordinances and Resolutions: None.

City Attorney: Rod Landwehr. Not in attendance.

City Manager: Ken Coleman. City Manager Coleman reported on the following: Staff is looking at a 911 Equipment upgrade and will be discussed for the 2012 Budget; HR Tech Kyndall Coffman will be leaving the end of the month; a promising interview was held today on a replacement for the position; the Aquatics Manager vacancy has been filled by Cory Vanderveen who graduated from WSC in May; the last hockey tournament of the season, the Brent Carlson Tournament, will take place this coming weekend and the rink will close on April 3rd; there will be a Skate Park Development meeting this Thursday at 6pm at the Community Center; the propane zamboni is still having mechanical problems and Staff is working on resolving the problems; some checks have been cut for employee health insurance claims and NGS continues to slowly process the rest of the claims; the City continues to receive health provider claims relating to the CO rink incident and Finance is working with providers on re-pricing of those claims; and discussion continues with Travelers Insurance on the claims declination.

Acting City Manager: Public Works Director Tex Bradford – Departmental Report. Mayor Ferguson thanked Director Bradford for the work the crews are doing downtown and said the grates look great. Councilor Miller added the City crews and Schmalz construction have been very efficient, accommodating to the business owners and have gone faster than expected. Director Bradford informed Council the Electric Crews are starting work on the downtown project junction boxes. Lead Electric Lineman Dan Whitesides has resigned from the City and there was one internal applicant for that vacant position. Lineman Will Dowis was interviewed,

was offered and has accepted the Lead Lineman position. There is now an opening for an Electric Lineman. He and the City Manager have been discussing some ideas about the position. The Public Works crews assisted the Town of Crested Butte with snowpack removal. They were in a desperate situation, so through the City's Mutual Aid Agreement, three crew members and three pieces of City equipment helped the Town out. Mayor Ferguson stated that CB Mayor Leah Williams called him and was extremely appreciative of the assistance.

City Clerk: Gail Davidson. The City Clerk reported that Council Candidate Petition packets are available. Four packets have been picked and one has been returned and verified.

WSC Liaison: Jesse Cruz. Mayor Ferguson and all of Council congratulated Jesse for placing 5th in the Nation in his wrestling weight class. Liaison Cruz reported the WSC Career Fair will take place this Thursday at the College Center and the annual Mountaineer Athletic Association Crabfeed will take place on Saturday at the Fred Field Western Heritage Center.

Non-Scheduled Citizens: None.

City Council Discussion, Meeting Reports, Items for Work Session:

Councilor Miller: nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Houck: reported he attended the RTA meeting last Friday. They continue to discuss the air contracts and seat guarantees including keeping the Dallas and Houston markets. The airline guarantees are very complex. The existing bus ground service levels are at the bare minimum. Cost for next year's bus service hasn't been determined yet.

Councilor Nesbitt: reported he also attended the RTA meeting. Members of the public from the north end of the valley were present. Several discussed leveling the RTA tax valley-wide and doing away with the ground transportation piece. They felt airline service was the priority. Councilor Nesbitt informed Council he will be meeting with Scott Tipton when he is in town tomorrow. Mayor Pro Tem Houck stated he would also be meeting with him along with the Gunnison Trails Commission representatives.

Mayor Ferguson: informed Council he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Tourism Association as a voting member representing the south end of the valley. Mayor Ferguson then brought up the Economic Development Summit that will be held tomorrow. He encourages Council to speak as one voice and wanted to discuss economic development ideas. Economic development has been discussed for years without consensus. The meeting tomorrow is an outgrowth of the Governor's "Bottom Up" program. All of the State's counties are being asked to bring forth their economic development ideas and issues. There was an initial meeting held in Montrose but no elected officials were able to attend that meeting. City Manager Coleman stated that Staff discussed this topic today and identified the following three items: WSC is an important component of the community; robust communications allowing links to the outside world need to be developed with established redundancies; and the availability of our natural resources needs to be examined as economic resources for jobs. Items discussed by Council included the following: the Cultural & Arts piece needs to be examined as it was during the annexation process; tourism is another level of the economic piece; a potential valley-wide website that could cost the City future funds; and the possibility of the County plan being voted on during the meeting tomorrow. Councilor Miller stated he has concerns that this topic was not included as an agenda item on tonight's meeting and Council has not had adequate time to formulate ideas and responses to the draft County plan. The county has indicated that energy efficiencies are a high priority but the Region 10 survey results indicated these are low on the list. Council Miller feels the Mayor can't represent Council until there is full Council input. Council consensus was that the City is not ready to make a decision on any plan at this time. Council needs to have full agreement on spending and strategies and the City officials at the meeting will not make any commitments until the full Council has an opportunity to weigh in on any proposals.

Adjournment: Mayor Ferguson called for any further discussion, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 8:17 P.M.

Mayor

City Clerk